the State Government to supplement the proposal with feasibility studies consisting of engineering details and cost benefit analysis for their techno-economic appraisal, before they are considered for external assistance.

Onion production

*238. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of onion has come in huge quantity during current year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers are demanding permission to export; and

(c) what are the reasons in delaying the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Onion production is likely to be 47.20 lakh tonnes during the current year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There was no delay in Government decision to allow export of onion as ban was partially lifted on February 1, 1999 and export of Bangalore Rose onion and Krishnapuram onion was permitted. Permission was also granted to export 3,000 tonnes of onion to Sri Lanka on Government to Government basis. In view of the comfortable availability of onions in the market, and declining prices, it was decided on February 12, 1999 to permit the export of 25,000 MT of onion per month for 3 months through agencies to be designated by the Government of Maharashtra. Further, it was decided on March 5, 1999 to also permit an agency designated by the Government of Gujarat to export 15,000 MT and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India to export 10,000 MT per month for three months (till May, 1999).

Filling up of the Vacancies in Canteens of Central Government Offices

*239. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions have issued any OM vide No. 3/1/92-Dir(C) dated 22nd June, 1998, regarding lifting the ban on creation/filling up of posts in the non-statutory departmental canteen/tiffin rooms located in Central Government offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these orders are being followed by all departments of Central Government, particularly CPWD, NDZ-II, New Delhi; and

(d) if not, whether Government would issue any instructions to the CPWD authorities for implementing these orders and fill all the compassionate grounds vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Department of Personnel and Training's O.M. No. 3/1/92-Dir.(C) dated 22.6.1998 containing full detail is attached as statement. (*See* below)

(c) The Department of Personnel and Training is concerned with the policy aspects relating to running of the non-statutory Canteens and Tiffin Rooms as also the staffing pattern therefor. Such guidelines and instructions as issued by the Department are required to be followed by all the Ministries/Departments and their Attached and Subordinate Offices including the CPWD.

(d) Instructions of the Government for making appointments on compassionate grounds already exist. As such, no further instructions in the matter are considered necessary.

Statement

No. 31/92-Dir.(C)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions,
Department of Personnel and Training

Room No. 361,
Lok Nayak Bhawan,
Khan Market,
New Delhi.

Dated the 22 June, 98

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:—*Lifting of ban on creation/filling up of posts in the Non-Statutory Departmental Canteens/Tiffin Rooms located in Central Government Offices.*

The undersigned is directed to draw attention of the various Departments to the Department of Personnel and Training's O.M. No. 31/92-Dir.(C) dated 30th January, 1992/3rd February, 1992 imposing a complete ban on creation and filling up of posts in Canteens till further instructions in the matter and to say that after a fresh review of the position and after considering the feasibility of arranging office catering through alternative means, it has been decided to revoke the ban with immediate effect. As a result the various Departments/Establishments having Departmental Canteens/Tiffin Rooms set up under the guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel and Training are now free to fill up the vacancies in their Canteens/Tiffin Rooms, keeping in view the instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance from time to time.

2. While taking necessary action to fill up the vacancies, the following aspects may be borne in mind and strictly adhered to:—

(i) Vacancies which remained unfilled for a period of more than one year would be deemed as having lapsed in terms of Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure OM No. 7(7)-E(Coord)/93 dated 3.5.93. Therefore, such vacancies can be filled up by the Departments/Establishments only after following the normal procedure for creation/revival of the posts.

(ii) Any vacancy which has remained vacant for less than one year can however, be filled up directly by taking immediate necessary action and thereby avoid lapsing of such vacancies also.

(iii) As employment in the Canteens has been declared as employment under the Government, the procedure laid down for such employment will be strictly followed in all cases. Besides, the recruitment would be required to be done strictly in conformity with the Recruitment Rules for which a Model has already been circulated to the Departments *vide* this Department's O.M. No. 32/94-Dir.(C) dated 1st March, 1995.

(iv) Before resorting to direct recruitment, the vacancies may be duly considered for filling up by promotion (if so provided in the Recruitment Rules) in the first instance. Further the claims of casual/adhoc employees already borne on the strength of the Canteens may be considered for regularisation provided they fulfill all the conditions enforceable for employment in the Government.

(v) Pending requests for employment on compassionate grounds from the next of kin of deceased Canteen employees may also be duly considered as per the normal procedure.

(vi) In no case, recruitment will be resorted to in the Canteen over and above the staff strength already authorised and sanctioned by the competent authority for the purpose. The authorisation for different Canteens/Tiffin Rooms is laid down in Annexure III in the booklet 'Administrative Instructions on Departmental Canteens' (Green Book). (*See* below) The yardstick for categorisation of Canteens into various types is also laid down *vide* Chapter I (para 1.6) of the Green Book. Relevant extracts of these provisions are enclosed. Registration numbers had been allotted to those Canteens which had sought registration prior to 31st July, 1993 indicating their categorisation. In the case of Canteens/Tiffin Rooms whose functioning had been regularised under the provisions of this Department's O.M. No. 3/4/96-Dir.(C) dated the 20th March, 1997 also, the norms relating to categorisation as 'A' type, 'B' type etc. will be strictly adhred to and the total employment in them kept within the prescribed maximum limits. Higher categorisation will not be adopted where the user strength has only marginally exceeded. In case of any doubt in the matter, this Department may be consulted so as to ensure that there is no case of employment over and above the authorised strength. In case additional staff is justified on the basis of authorisation, then normal procedure for creation of posts will have to be followed.

3. All concerned Departments are requested to take immediate necessary action to fill up vacancies in Canteens/Tiffin Rooms by according due directly to the matter and by following the prescribed procedure. Departments may also urgently disseminate the contents of this O.M. to all their attached/subordinate offices/establishments.

4. This issue with the concurrence of the Home Finance Division *vide* their U.O. No. 98598/AFA(P) dated 17th June, 1998.

(S.T. RAJAN)
DIRECTOR
(CANTEENS)
TELE: 4625818
FAX: 011-4624821

To

1. All Ministries/Departments to the Government of India (as per standard list).
   (For kind attention of Directors/Deputy Secretaries incharge of Administration/Establishment Divisions).
2. Ministry of Finance/Department of Expenditure (E-Coord-I).
3. Ministry of Home Affairs, Home Finance Division, North Block, New Delhi.
4. CGDA, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.
5. All Controller of Accounts in Ministries/Departments.
6. Comptroller and Auditor General of India, New Delhi.
7. The Registrar, Supreme Court of India, Tilak Marg, New Delhi.
8. Section Officer (Canteens), Department of Personnel and Training with 500 spare copies.
9. Office of the Joint Secretary (Training) and CAO, Ministry of Defence, C-II Hutments, Dalhausie Road, New Delhi-110011.

Extract from Green Book (Referred to in Para 2(vi)

1.6 *Types of Canteens/Tiffin Rooms*

The types of Canteens/Tiffin Rooms, depending upon the strength of the establishment office staff have been categories into the following types:—

Total strength of the Department/Office/Establishment	Types of Canteen/Tiffin Room entitled to
25 to 49	Tiffin Room Type 'B'
50 to 99	Tiffin Room Type 'A'
100 to 249	Canteen Type 'D'
250 to 499	Canteen Type 'C'
500 to 699	Canteen Type 'B'
700 to 1200	Canteen Type 'A'

If the strength of the office/establishment is more than 1200, the Canteens may be grouped and categorised as Type 2A, 3A and so on, with the approval of the Director of Canteens, Department of Personnel & Training.

Annexure-III
(Para 5.1)

Entitlement of employees in various types of Canteens/Tiffin Roms

S.No.	Appointment	Canteens Type				Titfin Rooms	
		A	B	C	D	A	B
1.	Manager	1	1	1	—	—	—
2.	Asstt. Manager-Cum-Store Keeper	1	1	—	—	—	—
3.	Manager-Cum-Salesman	—	—	—	1	—	—
4.	Counter Clerk/Salesman/Kitchen Clerk	2	1	1	1	1	—
5.	Coupon/Reserve Clerk	1	1	1	1	—	—
6.	Halwai	1	1	1	1	—	—
7.	Asstt. Halwai	1	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Cook	1	1	—	—	—	—
9.	Tea/Coffee Maker	1	1	1	1	1	1
10.	Bearer	7	5	3	2	—	—
11.	Washboy/Dish Cleaner	2	2	1	1	1	1
12.	Sweeper	1	1	1	—	—	—
		19	15	10	8	3	2

In addition to above, the following staff is authorised in group of more than 'A' type Canteen under one management in lieu of staff at serial Nos. 1 & 2 above.

		A group of 2 'A' Type Canteens	A group of more than 2 'A' type Canteens
13.	General Manager	1	1
14.	Deputy General Manager	—	1
15.	Accountant	1	1
16.	Cashier	1	1
17.	Store-keeper	1	1
18.	Internal Auditor	1 (part-time)	1 (part-time)

Sale of Unpopular Brand Items at Kendriya Bhandar

*240. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not so popular and reputed brand of consumer items are on sale through the branch stores of the Kendriya Bhandar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to review the items on its inventory and to immediately weed out the unpopular brands selling at the cost of the popular brands to uphold the interest of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar, as far as possible, tries to make available commodities on its shelves as per customers' choice and preference. As the preferences of the customers, in certain cases, keep on changing, some of the brands become unpopular. As a result of periodical review, brands which do not sell are struck off from the inventory of items to be purchased.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Indo-Russia Agreement in Agriculture

1706. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have signed a work plan for cooperation in agriculture and allied areas;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed; and

(c) the time by which the agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) An agreement was signed on 25th March, 1997 between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russion Federation on cooperation in the field of Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection. The agreement aims at the prevention of the penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds on the territory of both countries, reduction of crop losses caused by them as well as for further development of trade and exchange of planting material, agricultural, forest and plant produce between the two countries.

The agreement has come into force on the date of its signing and no separate work plan is envisaged to be signed under this agreement.

The Indian Council of Agriucltural Research (ICAR), India has also signed a